

May 22, 2003: Everett Announces House Passage of 2004 Defense Bill

Everett Pleased With House Passage of 2004 Defense Bill

Everett Adds \$342 Million to Defense Budget to Bolster Fort Rucker Flight Training and Testing, Ramp Up Missile Testing Affecting Pike County's Lockheed Martin, Build More Blackhawk Helicopter Parts at GKN in Tallassee, and New Construction at Maxwell-Gunter

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed the \$400 billion 2004 Defense Authorization Act (HR 1588) that includes \$1.3 billion in defense spending impacting Southeast Alabama, Congressman Terry Everett, R-Rehobeth, announced Thursday.

Everett, chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, secured \$342 million in additional funding for Southeast Alabama defense programs, including training and testing at Fort Rucker, new construction at Maxwell-Gunter, new Blackhawk helicopter production at Tallassee, and testing of a new anti-missile system to be partially produced at Pike County's Lockheed Martin.

Fort Rucker:

"As Fort Rucker is set to begin Flight School XXI for Army aviators, I was pleased to secure \$148 million in additional funds to ensure the training program has the resources to adequately prepare our future Army helicopter pilots," Everett said.

"While I supported the Administration's original request for \$500 million for flight training, it is clear that student backlogs and the need to expand flight experience in combat aircraft has created the need for increased funding," Everett continued. "Of course, flight training funding at Fort Rucker is key to the maintenance work performed on post by Dyncorp and instructor pilot services provided by Lear Siegler.

"The 2004 Defense Authorization Act also includes my request for \$7.4 million in additional funding for the U.S. Army Aviation Technical Test Center at Fort Rucker," Everett observed. "This increase is necessary for the ATTC to achieve a higher level of efficiency in the electronic collection of flight test data.

"Also of interest to Fort Rucker is the defense bill's inclusion of \$1 billion for further research and development of the RAH-66 Comanche helicopter. Training for the Comanche, once in production, will take place at Fort Rucker."

Maxwell-Gunter - Montgomery:

"For Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base in Montgomery, I was pleased to see granted my request for a \$12.6 million Integrated Operational Support Facility," Everett said. "The project will upgrade and consolidate the Gunter Standards Systems Group computer and communications operations by bringing them together in a single modern facility. I was also happy to support the Administration's budget request for \$13.4 million for Phase III of the Squadron Officer School Dormitory at Maxwell. These new construction projects will enhance the mission environment of Maxwell-Gunter."

Lockheed Martin - Pike County:

"The ongoing war against terrorism and the successfully fought military operation in Iraq were aided in large part by high-tech smart weaponry like the Hellfire missile produced in Pike County," Everett said. "I am confident that the military will continue to rely on these systems for their exceptional capability to take out the enemy. Indeed, the 2004 Defense Authorization Act includes \$235 million for missile systems partially produced at Pike County's Lockheed Martin," Everett added. "The new defense budget also continues plans to ready a new anti-missile system for production in Pike County by year's end."

Everett supported the Administration's request for \$703 million for the THAAD anti-missile defense system that will ultimately be produced at Lockheed Martin in Pike County. Furthermore, Everett secured an additional \$37 million to speed up testing of the new system to ensure that production can begin on time. The THAAD (Theater High Altitude Aerial Defense) missile program will be tested elsewhere by Lockheed Martin, but assembly of the new missile is slated to begin in Pike County by year's end.

GKN Aerospace - Tallassee & Montgomery:

"GKN Aerospace in Tallassee and Montgomery is a key subcontractor for the military's Blackhawk helicopter line. I was pleased to support the Administration's request for \$139 million for the production of 10 new H-60 Blackhawks. I secured

an additional \$112.8 million to produce 9 more H-60's bringing the total to \$251.7 million for 19 aircraft for 2004. Composite parts for these H-60's will be made and assembled in Central Alabama."

Miltope - Montgomery:

"Another Montgomery area defense company will play a major role in supplying our men and woman in uniform with high tech support," Everett noted. "Miltope will benefit from the defense budget's purchase of \$17.8 million in TSC-750 battlefield-ready laptop computers. I was able to add another \$10 million to this purchase amount to bring it to \$27.8 million, ensuring an adequate supply of these essential laptops for our military."

JKM - Eufaula:

"For 2004, I secured \$9 million in the new defense budget for the remanufacture of the Fleet Phalanx Close-In Weapon System (CIWS) for the Navy. The CIWS Bock 1B upgrade will better protect our naval vessels from close-in anti-cruise missiles as well as terrorist threats presented by small boats and low flying aircraft. This work will be performed in part at JKM in Eufaula."

Dynamic Research - Enterprise:

"So that the Army can make future battlefield operations safer for its personnel, I have secured \$5 million for Ground Systems Team Training to be provided by Dynamic's Research of Enterprise," Everett concluded.

2004 Defense Authorization Act - Second District Breakdown:

Fort Rucker:

- \$148 million in additional funding for Army Aviation Flight School XXI Training
- \$7.4 million in additional funding for Army Aviation Technical Test Center

Maxwell-Gunter:

- \$13.4 million for Squadron Officer School Dormitory (Phase III) at Maxwell
- \$12.6 million for Integrated Operations Support Facility at Gunter

Lockheed Martin (Pike County):

- \$133.1 million for Javelin missiles (partially produced in Pike County)
- \$102 million for JASSM missiles (partially produced in Pike County)
- \$56 million for Hellfire missiles (partially produced in Pike County)

Lockheed Martin (Orlando, Florida):

- \$37 million in additional funding for THAAD anti-missile testing (THAAD to be produced in Pike County beginning in 2004)

GKN Aerospace (Tallassee and Montgomery):

- \$251.7 million for 19 H-60 Blackhawk helicopters (composite parts manufactured and assembled in Tallassee and Montgomery)

Miltope (Montgomery):

- \$27.8 million for Miltope TSC-750 battlefield-ready laptop computers

JKM (Eufaula):

- \$9 million for remanufacture of Fleet Phalanx Close-In Weapon System (CIWS) for the Navy. The CIWS modification will help naval vessels to defend themselves against close-in anti-cruise missiles and close-in small boats and slow moving aircraft. JKM performs part of this remanufacturing work.

Dynamics Research Corporation (Enterprise):

- \$5 million for Ground System Team Training to maximize operational safety of U.S. Army ground troops

The Defense Authorization Act of 2004 (HR 1588) now awaits conference with the U.S. Senate which is also expected to

pass their version of the new Pentagon budget this week.